5th February 1936] [Mr. Basheer Ahmed Syeed]

regard to resolutions 9 and 10. It may agree to allow precedence to resolution No. 10. I therefore move that resolution No. 10 may be taken up for discussion now."

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member cannot try chances. I would not allow any such motion to be moved now. We had a vote just now on the previous motion which included reference to resolution No. 10 also. If the Member wanted, he could have moved an amendment to the previous motion before it was put to vote."

VIII.—RESOLUTION *RE* ESTABLISHMENT OF HOMŒOPATHIC SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND DISPENSARIES—*cont.*

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The House will now take up Mr. G. Rameswara Rao's resolution [a] which was under discussion on the last non-official day, i.e., 8th August 1935."

* Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO:—"Sir, I thank the House for giving me an opportunity for speaking on my motion as early as this. I make a recommendation to the Government that they might enquire into the merits of the Homœopathic system of medicine and consider the possibility of adopting that system of medicine. The Hon. Minister told me when I moved a cut motion, that the subject was a new one. He said he would consider the matter if it was brought up separately. Therefore I propose to give a short history of the movement; I shall show how the system is practised in India and elsewhere including the British Isles. With regard to the history of the movement, I wish to preface by saying that the system was started by Christian Samuel Hahnemann who was born on 11th April 1755 and died on 2nd July 1843; he lived to a very ripe age. We should recognize the system which he has founded for the benefit of posterity.

"He was himself an eminent allopathic doctor well-versed in modern science and was responsible for about 150 publications on Chemistry and Medicine. That will show to the House how efficient he was as a recognized member of the medical profession as it existed in those days. Curiously enough, he was not only a research scholar but an eminent scientist also, and he was a man who was fully alive to the calls of conscience and the calls of God within. The curious incident of his life was that when he felt himself unable to cure fever among his own children, he said to himself: 'If I am unable to cure my children of fever, it is absolute want of honesty in me to go to others and tell them that I can cure them of their ills and enrich myself at their cost.' So he said his conscience won't allow him to practise medicine any more because of his thorough failure in his own domestic circle. Then having no other means of livelihood, he took to translating medical books from 4-30 p.m.

---

[a] This Council recommends to the Government that a Committee consisting of some non-official Members of this House and some officials and some homœopathic practitioners be constituted to report to the Government on the advisability of starting a Homœopathic School of Medicine and Homœopathic Dispensaries in our Presidency.

one language to another, as he was a well-known linguist. And in the course of translating Cullen's Materia Medica, he came across a passage dealing with cinchona bark, to the effect that this bark when given to a healthy man, produces chills and temperature. He was rather surprised when he found it, because in common experience, this cinchona bark was given to cure fevers of a malarial type. When he saw that passage he paused at that stage and wanted to verify the statement by performing an experiment upon himself. So, he took a few doses of this cinchona bark and the result was that he developed symptoms of fever. Then again, he pondered over the matter, and said to himself: 'Well, if this principle is illustrated in the case of fever with cinchona bark, can this principle be extended to cases of gonorrhœa, syphilis, and other diseases of the sort?' Being himself an efficient doctor, he knew what medicines were applied for what diseases, and consequently he began proving the truth for himself to see whether he could develop a logical theory in the administration of drugs. And to his wonder, he found that each drug usually given to cure a particular disease in those days—as in these days also—was capable of developing in a healthy man the very symptoms of the disease for which the drug was given to a patient as a cure. Then, not being satisfied with an experiment upon himself, he collected a coterie of friends, all medical men of repute, and put it to them to verify his own experience; he asked them to take drugs with a view to publish to the world, if the results proved satisfactory, this theory and to have it demonstrated. Then, every member of the medical profession proved that the experiment led only to one logical conclusion, i.e., that likes cure likes—that is to say that a drug which develops a certain disease if taken by a healthy man, is the only drug which can be given to a patient suffering from such a disease as a cure. That is the fundamental theory. This is a scientific theory which has been developed by scientists in the West and accepted by eminent people in the West as a theory very well demonstrated.

"It is said, Sir, that homœopathy is a symptomatic treatment. The symptoms are taken to be the voice of the inner man. The system of homœopathy goes to the very root of the man and gives him a complete cure as opposed to a temporary cure of certain evils one at a time and not for all the ills—all at a time. That is a virtue which is inherent in homœopathy. Another important point to be remembered is that the system does not involve vivisection, and it is the most humane system that can be devised for the benefit of humanity. Not only this: these tiny pills are developed from an infinitesimally small proportion of medicine. The idea is that the less the medicine the greater the effect. The medicine is expected to operate on the mind, so that the whole man in all regions such as physical and mental is taken together and the medicine goes to the very root and cures the man effectively. Above all these things, Sir, this is the cheapest system. For all these reasons, I commend, Sir, that this system should be tried and that the Government, after investigating the question, should take advice from a properly constituted committee.

5th February 1936] [Mr. G. Rameswara Rao]

"Sir, the history of this system in India begins in the year 1839 when Maharaja Ranjit, in his last throes of agony, all available means having failed, consulted Dr. John Martin Honigberger who only was able to give him any relief. But homœopathy was little known to our country at that time. Some time later, it began to draw the attention of the public in Bengal, and mention can be made of Sir John Litler, a Deputy Governor of Bengal, Mr. Ironside, a Sessions Judge and Dr. Fabre, who did much towards the establishment of hospitals, charitable dispensaries and helping associations in many places. Further on, Mr. Rajendra Lal Dutta, another notable Bengalee, gave a great impetus to this system. Again, another gentleman, Dr. Sarkar, at first the Secretary and later on the Vice-President of the British Medical Association of Calcutta, became a convert to homœopathy and he gave it the very best impetus that was possible in those days. This system has been in vogue in India to a lesser or a higher degree from the year 1839 onwards, and for nearly a century now we have not recognized the virtues of this system which are recognized all over the world. The Government should take steps to find out what benefit this system is capable of giving to the people.

"As a last argument, I shall instance the case of His Majesty. During the penultimate illness of His Majesty King George V, when his blood was found to be full of streptococci, it was given to a homœopath to clear the blood of streptococci within twenty-four hours and then hand over the patient to the other doctors, to carry on their cure. Again, the Prince of Wales, our present Emperor, is himself a notable man, having great faith in the efficacy of homœopathy; in fact, in the Royal Household, homœopathy is allowed to be freely used along with allopathy. When such is the recognition given all over the world to homœopathy, the best thing for the Government is to appoint a committee to go into the matter, and to take the opinion of eminent people in the West as well as in the East. About eight years ago a similar motion was moved in the Travancore Legislative Assembly, and I am glad to tell hon. Members that the motion was carried by a large majority. The Travancore Government has introduced the homœopathic system as a State system of medicine. About two months ago I also read in the papers that during the cholera epidemic, the Government of Travancore specially allotted a particular area where this system was to be given a trial. That is the way in which homœopathy is recognized even in the Native States. The matter being one of such great importance and especially when the medicine is so cheap and our medical budget can be easily cut down and when our vital statistics can be very well made to compare favourably with those of any foreign country if we introduce this system, it is up to this hon. House to agree to this resolution. Sir, I commend this proposal to the acceptance of the Government."

Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"I second the resolution, Sir."

[5th February 1936

* Mr. A. B. Shetty:—" Mr. President, Sir, I move—

'*that in the resolution of my hon. Friend, Mr. Rameswara Rao, for all the words after the word " Committee " in line 1, the following be substituted:—*

" including some homœopathic practitioners be constituted to report to Government on the advisability of providing a course of practical instruction in the homœopathic system of medicine in our medical institutions." '

Sir, I am heartily in sympathy with the resolution. My object in moving this amendment is to make it more easy for the Government to accept the resolution. I think, Sir, that no separate school for teaching this system of medicine is necessary. The subjects to be studied are almost the same. A practitioner of homœopathy will also have to study anatomy, physiology, pathology and such other subjects. Any graduate who comes out of our medical institutions could pick up a knowledge of homœopathy in a very short time. I do not think it is necessary to start a separate school of homœopathy alone, and the question of our starting homœopathic dispensaries can be taken up later on.

" Sir, allopathic physicians give medicines in large doses and strong doses. They apply palliatives according to symptoms; but homœopathic physicians believe in helping nature's healing process by giving minute doses of medicines which are akin to the disease. There are only two points of difference between allopathy and homœopathy. The homœopathic doctors believe that substances which cause diseases can cure them when they are given in minute doses. Hahnemann, the founder of homœopathy, while carrying on researches about the effects of quinine, tried the peruvian bark upon himself and found, to his surprise, that he developed fever. This led him to propound his theory of *similia similibus curentur*—that like cures like. In modern days, the vaccine treatment that we give, the results of serum therapy also show us how diseases can be cured by the same substances which in other circumstances cause them. Professor Bier, the world-famous surgeon of Germany, was led, as a result of his observations and his researches, to believe in the despised doctrine of homœopathy and he was instrumental in starting a chair of homœopathy in the medical faculty of the University of Berlin. Allopathic physicians generally ridicule and doubt the efficacy of giving very minute doses of medicine and curing diseases by that means. But the progress of medicine and recent discoveries have proved that small doses also can act. Allopathic doctors too have been led by experience to reduce their doses. They have found that medicine given through injections, even of 1/1000000 gramme is sufficiently efficacious. We all hear so much nowadays about vitamins. Vitamins are extremely minute substances which it is impossible to discover, but these substances when they are lacking in our food, cause deficiency diseases or diseases of malnutrition. The results of experiments made by Sir J. Bose show that poisons in normal doses kill plants.

5th February 1936] [Mr. A. B. Shetty]

but when given in extremely minute doses, accelerate the growth of the same plants. There are several other instances which also go to show that drugs when given in extremely minute doses prove very efficacious. They have found, for instance, that adrenaline when given in 1/10000 part of a milligram, can effectively contract the muscles of the bladder. The efficacy of the infinitesimal doses of homœopathic medicines has been proved in many hospitals where such medicines are given. The science of homœopathy has stood the test of time; it is nearly 150 years old; it has made vast strides in the United States of America where they have not only homœopathic colleges in places like New York, Philadelphia and Cleveland, but also a large number of homœopathic hospitals and sanatoriums.

"They have got homœopathic hospitals and doctors in other American countries also—in countries like Brazil, Mexico and Canada and in European countries like Italy, France, Germany, Switzerland. There are several homœopathic hospitals and eminent medical men practising homœopathy in England. The biggest hospital is said to be in London and there they have the British Homœopathic Association. In India, in Calcutta and in my own town of Mangalore we have several homœopathic doctors who are successfully practising this system of medicine. Not only doctors but there are a large number of laymen particularly Missionaries, who practise this system in India and China. It is claimed by the practitioners of this system of medicine that it is simple, it is cheap and it is pleasant to take. It is willingly taken by children. More than anything else homœopathic medicine has no injurious secondary effects as we sometimes find when allopathic medicines are administered. We know many allopathic doctors who have condemned the poisonous effects of their own drugs. I hope, Sir, that the Hon. Minister will give his serious consideration to this matter and see whether he cannot accept the resolution in the form in which it has been amended by me. I think in our medical institutions we must teach different systems of medicine. We must provide optional courses of study. Without much extra expenditure Government can create a special chair for the teaching of this system of medicine for such people as like to study them. We shall be wise if we keep our minds open and adopt whatever is good in other systems. It is not right for any man of science or any doctor to be dogmatic and believe in only one system." 4-45 p.m.

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—"I second it."

Khan Sahib SYED TAJUDDIN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Mr. President, as we all know India is a strange country. It is a land of castes and colours and religions. It is a land of languages. Sir, it is also a land of many systems of medicine. We are already having about five systems of medicine in our country, namely, the allopathic system, ashtanga hridayam, ayurveda, siddha and unani. I should like to draw the attention of the House to one fundamental fact. The allopathic and homœopathic systems are diametrically opposed to each other. They

are as poles asunder in the basic principles themselves. As our learned friend just now said the system of homœopathy is based upon what they call the basic principle '*Similia similibus curentur*' whereas the system of allopathy is based on the opposite principle *contra contraris curentur*. Therefore in the fundamentals themselves they are diametrically opposed. The homœopaths accuse the allopathic system by saying that the dosage is too large whereas the allopathic practitioners find fault with the homœopaths by saying that the dosage is infinitesimally small. It is next to water, they say, and cannot produce any effect in the body or counteract any symptoms. After all they contend that homœopathy is next only to mental healing. You may as well chant a mantram and say it will cure you. If you have faith in medicine it will cure you. Otherwise not. I cannot discuss the relative merits of any of these systems just at present because it is already too late. But my point is whether we can take up on hand the system of homœopathy immediately. Sir, the Indian systems of medicine which had fallen into disuse are just now brought to light once again and the research section of the Indian School of Medicine is almost starving. There are various points which are very important which require our present attention. We must cut our coat according to our cloth and where are we to go for the sinews of war. If we go on doing things haphazardly and without any proper regard to our finances it won't be any good at all. We must place the Indian systems of medicine on a stable basis and then only think of helping the homœopathic system which is a foreign system. After all homœopathy is still in its leading strings and I cannot subscribe to what Mr. Shetty said that it has stood the test of time. After all this system was brought into being only the other day. In India it has been in vogue only during the last few years and that in certain corners. For these reasons I oppose the motion."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—"I would like to add a few words to what the Muslim Member from Tanjore stated. It is not a matter of sentiment at all. It is not a matter on which we ought to take a step if we are convinced of the step we are taking. As has been pointed out we have got three or four important systems. The Muslim Member pointed out the fifth one, of which I am not aware at all. They have proved themselves to be of certain efficacy and in some respects of greater efficacy than the allopathic system. Those systems were explored only very recently. When they were dying an attempt was made by the Raja of Panagal and a committee was appointed and that committee made very elaborate recommendations to resuscitate these systems. Most of the recommendations of that committee are still to be given effect to. Government have no funds to give effect to them. These are very necessary and urgent. I may give one instance. The establishment of herbaria to develop our own materia medica, our own pharmacopia and our own medical store and very many similar suggestions have been made in that report. But no step has been taken in that

5th February 1936] [Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed]

direction. It is necessary that there should be a standardization of the medicines which are used in the Unani and other systems of medicine. Before we can attempt it what is the good of being drawn away to many other systems. I am not opposed to researches. It has been the policy to improve the sphere of activity in the educational department through private effort even after long years of education. Even so it must take pretty long time before Government can take this foreign and alien system of medicine into this country. Let there be more and more private interest in this regard and let the result be tested by the allopathic system to see how far this could be given precedence, not even precedence but to see whether money could be spent on it. So instead of diverting attention to new spheres of activity let the old be encouraged, augmented and strengthened. There is the Indian School of Medicine. What is being done? Every time the Finance Member says, 'no funds.' We cannot get buildings. We cannot get assistance. We cannot increase the number of beds in the Indian School of Medicine which is most inefficient. I do not cast any aspersions on the officers there. But in the matter of equipment, in the matter of the number of beds, in the matter of medicines and in the matter of several requirements of a decent hospital it is utterly lacking. Those systems deserve far more encouragement than the allopathic system. Indian systems of medicine are far cheaper than the allopathic system and it has been proved that the medicines of the Unani and Ayurvedic systems are far more efficacious. When the Government is not able to do that much towards the existing systems of medicine what justification is there for the Government or even any one of us to ask the Government to go on spending money on the investigation of this. Let private effort attend to this. Let the initial stage be over and after it has become deep-rooted and after it has secured reputation in the country then it will be time for the public or the Government to take up that system to see how far it can be taken up by the people of this country. I do not really want that investigation should not be made. But this is not the stage. We shall have to wait for some years to see how far the system justifies to fulfil the legitimate functions. I therefore say we need not devote more time on this."

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—" Hon. Members are aware that the House is assembling on the 26th instant when the budget will be presented. It is proposed that we should meet a day earlier to transact business connected with the final stages of the City Municipal Bill. The House will therefore adjourn and meet again at 11 o'clock on the 25th instant."

IX.—PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

* *Settlement—Resettlement—Supplement to the Scheme Report of the Kurnool district—Proposals for revision of water-cess in the Kurnool district.*

D. K. V. RAGHAVA VARMA,
Acting Secretary to the Legislative Council.

* Printed separately.